

KDDERLEN-WACHTER, THE MAN OF
AGADIR 135

allowing her to appropriate the country. " I
rejoice/" deckred
Aehrenthal to the French Ambassador, " and so
do all my
countrymen, whose cordial sympathy with you
grows daily
stronger." The Austrian Minister was relieved to
know that
the Central Powers could now devote their
undivided attention
to the Bosnian incident. Similar felicitations
came from Tit-
toni at Rome. " Politically it is a great advantage
that France
and Germany should agree not to quarrel about
Morocco/"
commented Grey; *^c commercially I fear other
people will
lose by an entente between them, though the
open door must
be preserved on paper." Only Russia was
dissatisfied, for she
saw in the *detente* fresh evidence of French
reluctance to back
up her ally in the Bosnian feud. While a duel is
in progress
the seconds are not expected to fraternize. Had
Russian
statesmen possessed the gift of prophecy they
would not have
been alarmed, for the Moroccan honeymoon was
destined to
be brief.

The second and larger issue was the Bosnian
crisis. The
decision of Germany to stand by her ally, despite
the resentment
of her precipitate action privately
expressed by the
Kaiser and Marschall, had been reached before
Kiderlen was
summoned from Bucharest. There was really no
choice, for
Austria-Hungary was her only dependable partner,
and Aehren-
thal was on strong ground in claiming a reward
for services at
Algicatas. Moreover the estrangement of
England by the
Flottenpolitik and the consequential tightening of
the bonds of
the Triple Entente strengthened the pull of
Vienna. Bis-
marck had made the Dual Alliance with Andrassy
in 1879 on
the tacit assumption that Germany would be the
first violin.
With the recent shift in the balance of power, the
roles began to
be reversed, Austria calling the tune and

Germany following obediently in her train. Kiderlen resented the change, but he was in full agreement with the policy of standing by Francis Joseph in the Bosnian controversy to the end. In the opening weeks of 1909 the juridical damage inflicted on Turkey by the action of Austria and Bulgaria was compensated by a small financial *solatium*. These settlements were welcomed throughout Europe, where no responsible statesman desired a conflict. On the other hand they strengthened the position of Aehrenthal, for, now that Turkey was out of the ring, Serbia faced Austria alone. That Russia was not in a position to fight the Central Powers was as well known in Belgrad as elsewhere, but the outraged feelings of the Serbs